



Paper Presentation Competition Rules

Approved by ALSA Executive 15/05/2022

1. COMPETITION NAME	
1.1	This competition will be known as the Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) Paper Presentation Championship ("the Championship").
2. DEFINITIONS	
2.1	Affiliated law school: As defined by the ALSA Constitution.
2.2	Championship: The ALSA Paper Presentation Championship.
2.3	Conference: The ALSA Conference.
2.4	Convenor: The ALSA Conference Convenor or Convenors.
2.5	President: The ALSA President.
3. REGISTRATION	
3.1	By entering this Championship, all competitors agree to be bound by the Championship Rules outlined in this document, as well as in the ALSA Appeals Procedure By-Law, and the ALSA Constitution.
3.1.1	By entering this competition all competitors consent to their image being photographed, filmed and published by ALSA. Competitors may request not to be photographed, filmed or published at the Conference Convenor's discretion.
3.2	Each affiliated law school may nominate one (1) person to compete in the Championship.
3.3	The nominated competitor must remain the same for the duration of the Conference.
3.4	If invited by the President and the Convenor, competitors from non-affiliated law schools may enter the competition, provided that their competitors comply with all other jurisdictions.
3.5	Competitors must not have graduated with a law degree in any jurisdiction.
3.6	Competitors must register by the registration date as set by the Convenor.
3.7	Competitors are not permitted to register for multiple competitions during the Conference subject to 3.7.1.
3.7.1	A competitor, at the discretion of their affiliated law school, may be registered in this Championship and one (1) other Championship in the Conference.
Penalty:	Any contravention of a rule of section 3 may result in disqualification.
4. COMPETITION STRUCTURE	
4.1	The Championship is comprised of a Preliminary Round and a Grand Final.
4.2	In the event that less than five (5) competitors enter the competition there will be no Preliminary Round and all competitors will progress to the Final Round.
5. PRELIMINARY ROUNDS	
5.1	All competitors will compete in each Preliminary Round.

5.2	Competitors may not observe, nor are they to be briefed on, proceedings of a Preliminary Round in which they are not competing. This does not apply if competitors have already competed within that Round.
Penalty:	Any contravention of 5.1 or 5.2 may result in disqualification.
5.3	Competitors will be randomly allocated into groups, depending on the number of competitors.
6. PROGRESSION AND SCORING	
6.1	The two (2) competitors with the highest total score from each Preliminary Round group will progress to the Grand Final.
6.1.1	In the event of a tie, the competitors will be separated in accordance with the following criteria:
6.1.1.1	The score will be broken down into the oral and written component of the score. The competitor with the highest score for the oral component will progress to the Grand Final.
6.1.1.2	If scores still remain even, the rank of the competitor from the Preliminary Round will be taken into account. The competitor ranked higher (after averaging) will progress to the Grand Final.
6.1.2	Should the two competitors remain tied after all other methods of separating them have been exhausted, a coin toss conducted by the Competition Director(s) will decide who

	progresses through.
Appeals:	Where a competitor believes that these rules have been incorrectly applied, an appeal should be lodged to the Conference Board of Appeals.
7. GRAND FINAL	
7.1	The Grand Final presentations will be judged by a new panel (i.e. Judges who have not previously been involved in the competition).
7.2	Each finalist will be required to undertake a second oral presentation and each Grand Final panel member will individually give each competitor a mark out of sixty (60). An average of these oral presentation marks will be taken, with this representing the 'oral component' of the Grand Finalist's overall score out of one hundred (100) marks.
7.3	The winner of the Paper Presentation Championship is deemed to be the competitor with the highest combined oral and written mark in the final.
7.4	In the case of a draw, the winner of the Grand Final will be that competitor with the highest average oral presentation mark for the Grand Final.
7.4.1	In the case of a draw still existing, the winner will be determined to be the individual with the highest mark from any one judge.
7.5	The winner of the Grand Final will be notified at the ALSA Conference Closing Dinner.
7.6	Scoring will be as follows:

7.6.1	Each competitor will be allocated a mark out of forty (40) for their written paper.
7.6.2	Each member of the judging panel will award each competitor a mark out of sixty (60).
7.6.3	The competitor's score will be the average of the scores awarded.
7.6.4	Judges must award each competitor a different score; no draws are possible.
7.6.5	Each member of the judging panel will rank competitors within each group. No two (2) competitors may be ranked equally. The competitor's rank will be the average of the ranks awarded.
7.7	Method of determining the Australian Champion
7.7.1	The highest placed Australian competitor according to the scoring methodology will be deemed the Australian Champion.
7.7.2	The second highest placed Australian according to the scoring methodology will be deemed the Australian runner-up.
8. RESEARCH AND PREPARATION	
8.1	All substantive research and preparation for the oral component must be conducted solely by the competitor. Competitors may not receive assistance and advice.
Penalty:	Any contravention of 8.1 may result in disqualification.
9. PAPER SPECIFICATIONS	
9.1	The subject for the paper (and oral presentation) is to be determined by the competitor.
9.2	The paper is to be no longer than 5000 words (maximum word limit).
Penalty:	Written Paper marks are penalised at two (2) marks (of a possible 40 marks available) per 100 words or part thereof over the maximum word limit (5000 words).
9.3	The paper is to be no shorter than 3000 words (minimum word limit).
Penalty:	Written Paper marks are penalised at two (2) marks (of a possible 40 marks available) per 100 words or part thereof under the minimum word limit (3000 words).
9.4	Basic footnotes, bibliography, titles, subtitles and contents pages will not be considered part of the word limit as outlined in 9.2 and 9.3.
9.5	Explanatory footnotes are permitted, but must be included in the word limit.
9.6	The paper should conform to the Championship's designated Style Guide, the Australian Guide to Legal Citation.
9.7	No part of the paper should disclose the university of the competitor.
Penalty:	Five (5) marks will be deducted for a breach of rule 9.7.
9.8	The deadline for receipt of papers is to be set by the Convener but no less than 5 days prior to conference.
9.9	By the due date deadline, Competitors must email the Championship co-coordinator at the email address specified by the Convener , providing:
9.9.1	A copy of their paper in Portable Document Format (.pdf); and

9.9.2	A completed cover sheet declaring that the length of the paper is between 3000 and 5000 words.
9.10	At Conference, competitors must provide the Championship co-coordinator with three bound hard copies of their paper.
9.11	Each competitor may submit only one (1) paper.
Penalty	For any breach of subsection 9.9 Written Paper marks are penalised at two (2) marks (of a possible 40 marks available) per day or part thereof.
10. DETAILS OF THE PRESENTATION	
10.1	The presentation is divided into two parts.
10.1.1	First, the Competitor will present their paper without interruption for up to fifteen (15) minutes. A competitor must stop speaking when asked to do so by the Judge. A warning will be given at the following intervals:
10.1.1.1	Ten (10) minutes after commencing;
10.1.1.2	Thirteen (13) minutes after commencing;
10.1.1.3	Fifteen (15) minutes after commencing.
10.1.2	Second, the judging panel will question the competitor on their oral presentation for up to ten (10) minutes. Questions from spectators will not be permitted.
10.2	The competitor's paper must form the substantive basis for the presentation.
10.3	The following equipment is available for use by the competitor in the presentation:
10.3.1	A lectern;
10.3.2	A whiteboard; and
10.3.3	A projector connected to computer equipment for power-point presentations.
10.4	The equipment, at a time set at the discretion of the ALSA Conference Convenor, is to be available to the competitor prior to the competition for the purpose of familiarisation.
10.5	No other equipment will be permissible unless a special request is made in writing to the Championship co-ordinator and is approved by the Competitions Director(s) in consultation with the Conference Convenor no later than five (5) days prior to the commencement of competition.
10.6	The competitor is responsible for arranging their preferred set up for the equipment and will be given an opportunity to do so before being introduced by the Paper Presentation Championship coordinator.
10.7	For the purpose of this championship, competitors may assume that the judging panel will be composed of "legally literate people with a non-expert interest in the paper".
10.8	A competitor will not be more than five (5) minutes late for the commencement of the round.

Penalty:	Two (2) marks per five (5) minutes or part thereof. For clarity, penalties will only apply onwards from 5 minutes after the round is scheduled to begin.
11. TIMEKEEPING	
11.1	Responsibility for timekeeping and adherence to allotted time periods and breaks rests with the Judges.
11.2	If resources and volunteers are available, timekeepers and timekeeping devices may be provided and in such cases will be solely responsible for all time keeping and penalties. A timekeeper shall not be an individual from the same University as any Competitor in that particular round.
11.3	Decisions by judges as to elapsed times are final and non-reviewable.
11.4	Observation of the Championship is encouraged, however potential for disruption must be minimized. Observers should not enter or leave the room whilst a competitor is speaking.
11.5	Judges may, if they wish, request that observers leave the room while they confer. Outside of this discretion, observers may watch all segments of a round.
12. JUDGING	
12.1	Every effort must be made by the competition organisers and the competitors to ensure that judges are unaware of the university competitors are from until after they have judged that particular competition.

12.1.1	Competitors must not reveal their university to the Judge/s until after the Judge has handed in the scoresheets for that particular competition.
12.1.2	Competitors must not contact judges after the competition unless specifically invited to do so by that particular judge.
12.2	All judges must have suitable legal qualifications, or relevant experience. Judges will be judges, magistrates, legal practitioners, legal academics or others with demonstrated experience in competitions.
12.3	Where a student is serving as a judge, he or she may not judge a round involving a competitor from that student's university.
12.4	One judge will assess all written papers. That judge must not be a member of any oral judging panel for the Preliminary Round or Grand Final.
12.5	Judges will be provided with:
12.5.3	The score sheet;
12.5.4	A summary of the rules of the Championship (at least 1 (one) page).
13. RELEASE OF SCORE SHEETS AND RANKINGS	
13.1	Score sheets and rankings are released by the Conference team to assist the educational value of competition at ALSA Conference. No appeals are permitted on the basis of score sheets or rankings.

13.2	At the conclusion of the competition, all competitors will receive a copy of their score sheet for their oral performance (not written mark).
13.3	At the conclusion of the competition, each competitor, ALSA representative or faculty may write to the Convener and request a copy of their scores. They will have one month from the conclusion of the Conference to complete this request.
13.4	At the conclusion of the one-month period, those competitors, ALSA representatives and faculty who requested their scores according to 13.1 will be sent a copy. This will occur over a two-week period.
13.5	The Conference team will also at this time release a list of rankings for the Championship.
13.6	No scores will be released except in strict accordance with these rules.
14. AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION	
14.1	In the event, the competition is won by an Australian competitor, that competitor shall be deemed the Australian Champion.
14.2	In the event the highest placed Australian competitor is the runner-up, that competitor shall be deemed the Australian Champion.
14.3	In the event the highest placed Australian competitor is a losing semi-finalist, that competitor shall be deemed the Australian champion unless both losing semi-finalists are Australian competitors.
14.4	In the event both losing semi-finalists are Australian competitors and no Australian competitor progresses to the Grand Final, the highest ranked Australian competitor according to the ranking methodology in section 6 of these rules shall be deemed the Australian Champion.
14.5	In the event the highest placed Australian competitor is a losing quarter-finalist, the highest ranked Australian competitor according to the ranking methodology in section 6 of these rules shall be deemed the Australian Champion unless only two Australian competitors progress to the quarter-finals.
14.6	In the event only two Australian competitors progress to the quarter-finals and both those competitors fail to progress to the semi-finals, the highest ranked Australian competitor according to the ranking methodology in section 6 of these rules shall be deemed the Australian Champion.
14.7	In the event the highest placed Australian competitor does not qualify for the quarterfinals, the highest ranked Australian competitor according to the ranking methodology in section 6 of these rules shall be deemed the Australian Champion.
14.8	The Australian runner-up shall be the Australian competitor that progressed the second furthest into the elimination rounds. In the event two or more Australian competitors would qualify to be Australian runner-up on this basis, the competitor ranked highest according to r 6.1.1 will be deemed the Australian runner-up.
14.9	Should the Competition be used to select a representative Australian competitor to compete in an international competition, the Australian Champion for that year will be put forward as the representative.

14.10	In the event that the Australian Champion (including a minimum of one (1) member competing in the Competition) is unable to attend the international competition the Australian runner-up may represent Australia.
14.11	In the event of the inability of the Australian runner-up to attend, ALSA, in consultation with whichever such body that has requested the competitor, shall nominate an Australian representative who has participated in the national competition.

15. APPEALS	
15.1	Where a competitor believes that these rules have been incorrectly applied, an appeal should be lodged to the Conference Board of Appeals, in accordance with the ALSA Appeals Procedure By-Law.
15.2	Where the Conference Board of Appeals has discretion to penalize a competitor in accordance with these rules, in determining the penalty the Board shall consider, inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any mitigating circumstances that would explain the contravention; • Any aggravating circumstances connected with the contravention.
15.3	The Conference Board of Appeals reserves the right to waive a penalty where it believes that the circumstances merit such a decision.
15.4	Judges shall not be notified of the application of any penalties at any time by the Competitions Director(s) or the Conference Board of Appeals.
15.5	If a Judge becomes aware that a penalty has been or will be applied, they will be instructed not to take this penalty into consideration when marking the competitors.
15.6	The Competitions Director(s) and the Conference Board of Appeals in consultation with the Conference Convener(s), have full discretion as to the application of all penalties.
15.7	The Conference Appeals Board will also have the discretion to disqualify or apply penalties to any competitor who acts in a manner that is contrary to the principles on which the competition is based or the interests of the competition.
15.8	Any competitor that forfeits will be deemed to have lost that paper presentation. Counsel for the forfeiting competitor will be deemed to have a mark of zero for that round.
15.9	Any competitor whose opponent forfeits a round will be deemed to have won that paper presentation. The competitor's margin will be the average of their margins from the other rounds.
15.10	Any competitor that forfeits shall be excluded from progressing through to the Final Rounds.